

Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River

The Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site is located in Allegan and Kalamazoo counties in Michigan. The site includes 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River, river banks and floodplains, a 3-mile stretch of Portage Creek, five landfills and a paper mill. The paper mill and the landfills discharged contaminated paper residuals into Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River, contaminating soil and sediment. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990. Cleanup included soil removal, stabilization, capping and installation of groundwater monitoring systems at four of the five landfills. In 2006, the City of Plainwell purchased part of the site – the former paper mill property. This area is now part of a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. EPA provided reuse planning assistance to support the City's evaluation of reuse opportunities in 2008. Redevelopment work began in 2010, when the City of Plainwell and Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA) entered into an agreement for the redevelopment of the 36-acre former paper mill. CRA relocated its U.S. construction headquarters and 50 jobs to the site in 2012. The City of Plainwell completed a \$1.7 million renovation of the former dewatering building to house its Public Safety Department. The City moved Plainwell City Hall into renovated office space in the former paper mill building on site. Local artists used salvaged materials to create a sculpture near the main entrance to the renovated mill complex. CRA and city officials remain focused on opportunities for additional commercial, residential and community uses at the site. The community also uses the adjacent Kalamazoo River for swimming, boating and fishing.